

BEACH CONSERVATION

By NEAL MERRY

Last weekend was our busiest since the Christmas/New Year holidays. Many people who travel the beach regularly state that the greatest beach deterioration occurs in the "off" (wrongly considered "open") season. Repeated boot-shod pedestrians penetrate the posted and fenced areas ignorant of the project's goals and their own destruction. Runaway vehicles often accomplish the same with 4 churning wheels.

The facts are that we haven't had a destructive storm since Labor Day. Yet the human breakdown of the beach continues. More active patrol manpower is needed, particularly during the "off" season when the beach is heavily populated.

The following is an edited report from the Beach Conservation Officer's Log for last weekend:

Saturday, Jan. 26

1:15 p.m., tide up, sunny, mild

8:30 a.m., met load of 50 plus trees from Wellesley, assisted unloading on outer beach.

9:30-11:00, meeting with Messrs. Nash, Krahmer, Post, Sanger re beach information/regulations brochure

11:00-12:30, elaboration on post meeting with several committee members

12:30-2:15 lunch, vehicle refueled, serviced, interior cleaned

2:15 to beach, parking lot to count - total 51

2:30-4:30 beach patrol, accompanied by Krahmer, Post and Sanger, complete patrol routing, discussion of reconstruction projects, enforcement, other problem areas.

selected occurrences;

Introduced Hi Pines residents to group, report of art students ripping out cedar tree roots from sand dunes at Hi Pines...spoke with young people known to be regular users of parking area. they agreed to gather glass and metal containers strewn about parking area and leave them in piles since the trash barrels have been removed for thawing out and repainting...spoke with several parties walking or encamped within fenced revegetation/dune areas...many vehicles without stickers on the beach, identified myself and vehicle, documented licences and registrations, gave copy of regulations, explained need for project cooperation, directed off beach and to review signs they had driven past on entrance...1 driver careless, documented and directed off beach...reviewed volunteer Plum Hills piling project...discussed contract piling and cable project progress...volunteer cable unravelled and stockpiled...bath house parking area patrol.

6:30-8:30 daily rounds, detailed documentation, photo record, beach correspondence.

Comment: Beach information pamphlet, necessary as an educational enforcement tool.

Sunday, Jan. 27 - 2 p.m. tide; rainy a.m.--clearing, mild p.m.

12:15 p.m. attached volunteer trailer to haul beach trash & garbage piles to dump.

12:40 proceeded to load debris in trailer, motorcycle started down beach buggy road past signs, aborted litter detail, apprehended cyclist, interrupting traffic flow, turned Bronco and trailer around, requested cyclist return to blacktop area for further offense documentation.

1:15 parking lot count - total 71

Continued litter detail, noticed several unauthorized, improperly equipped passenger cars driving past beach buggy signs, aborted litter detail again. Hauled trailer to cross over motorcycle racing on outer beach among walkers, detached trailer, chained and locked to oak post, continued vehicle beach patrol.

2:50 3 unstickered passenger cars stuck at Hi Pines with no sand equipment, considerable damage to road and vegetation, unable to tow them, stated I would check them later during patrol.

3:20 took movies and 35 mm slides of motorcycle in operation over vegetation off the beach buggy road; apprehended cycle 2 witnesses observations documented.

3:30 radioed to police dept. for impoundment transportation and receipt unregistered uninsured cycle.

3:35 out of vehicle. Radio call from Police re capsized sailboat north of bridge. Answered unable present location. Fire dept. called and police cruiser dispatched (later call all souls accounted for and boat salvaged). Documented cyclist offense, owner of cycle loaded machine in patrol Bronco, proceeded to police station with cyclist and his passenger...met 2 unequipped passenger cars on beach buggy road, documented, turned around, directed to paved lot, continued to police station (several police radio calls as to cycle delivery, location instructions.)

4:05 arrived police station, owner unloaded cycle, further documentation. Drove cyclist and his date to pickup truck at beach bath house parking lot.

5:00 returned to beach, continued patrol, talked with several knowledgeable beach walkers. Spoke to party of 3 digging in the dunes with the sand fence area (photo documentation) explained reason for glass container regulation.

5:30 met MBBA representative, gathering info for later meeting...would like to support project in more intensive manner...spoke with several more beach walkers informed and turned around more unstickered vehicles...darkness, trash detail incomplete.

7:30 2 calls from Coast Guard station, return beach patrol, reattached volunteer trailer.

8:25 radioed police re beach buggy road blocked by Xmas trees. Removed trees, called station.

8:45 return home, dinner.

10:30-midnight daily records, log violation reports, detailed documentation. Clipper beach conservation article photo & outline.

Comment - the beach has deteriorated more from human impact since Labor Day than during the summer season. Many vehicle operators admit that they assumed this off-season is open-season. I explain to each individual I meet that this is not so. All violators this weekend were first offenses, according to previous record.

1974 permits are now being printed, unfortunately their availability has been delayed this long.